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JAN 19 2007

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 Cancelled.

17. (new) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer comprising:

a handle;

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face, said

hammerhead defining:

multiple, peripheral nail-retention grooves dimensioned to orient the nails

toward said face, wherein each of said grooves is dimensioned to

releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail; and

a pair of apically-rounded, flared claws distally situated from said face,

wherein each of said claws terminates in a nail removal void that differs

in size one from the other;

and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication

with each of said nail-retention grooves.

18. (new) The hammer of claim 17 wherein said magnetic core comprises multiple magnets, wherein each groove contains at least one magnet embedded therein.

19. (new) The hammer of claim 18 wherein said grooves comprise a partially conical shape.

20. (new) A hammer for releasably retaining nails of varying sizes, said hammer

comprising:

a handle;

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and a side surface defining multiple, varying-sized nail-retention grooves dimensioned to orient the nails toward said striking face; wherein each of said nail-retention grooves is dimensioned to releasably accept both a shaft of a nail and a head of a nail; and

a magnetic core, disposed within said hammerhead, in magnetic communication with each of said nail-retention grooves.

21. (new) The hammer of claim 20 wherein at least one of said nail-retention grooves comprise a frustoconical groove proximate to a cylindrical groove.

22. (new) The hammer of claim 21 wherein said magnetic core comprises a multiple magnets, wherein each of said nail-retention grooves includes at least one magnet embedded therein.

23. (new) A hammer for removing nails from confined spaces, said hammer comprising:

a handle; and

a stationary hammerhead, affixed to said handle, with a striking face and

a pair of apically-rounded, flared claws distally situated from said face, wherein

each of said claws terminates in a nail removal void that differs in size one from the other.